Press Release

Analysis of FY2008 Greenhouse Gas Emissions:
150 Large-Scale Facilities Responsible for 50% of Japan’s Total Emissions

Greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) data for fiscal year (FY) 2008 were announced on June 18th in accordance with the Mandatory Greenhouse Gas Accounting and Reporting System (hereafter, GHG Reporting system) for disclosure requests on 14,710 specified facilities and 1425 specified transportation facilities. Based on these results, Kiko Network immediately analyzed in detail the ratio of emissions that gigantic facilities constitute.

The actual amount of direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions fell 6% since last year in Japan, while the ratio of emissions coming from gigantic emitters increased. It became ever clearer that in Japan, most emissions come from a select few extremely large-scale emitters. The following is a summary of our analysis.

Summary

150 Major Facilities Constitute Half of Japan’s Emissions

Japan’s GHG emissions data for FY2008 reveal that approximately 150 facilities, including 84 power plants and 16 steel plants, compose 50% of Japan’s total emissions, and the remaining 15,000 facilities and transportation companies constitute 20%.

Direct emissions for the electric industry were reported, showing that a total of 218 electric facilities (power plants) emitted 420 million tons of carbon dioxide (Mt-CO2), which equals 33% of Japan’s total emissions, or almost half of the emissions from all targeted facilities. In addition, direct emissions from the steel industry totaled approximately 170 Mt-CO2 (13% of Japan’s total emissions), and indirect emissions came to 185.6 Mt-CO2 (14.5% of total), confirming the steel industry as an extremely large emitter. The two industries combined (electric and steel) are responsible for 46%, or almost half of Japan’s total emissions.

Emissions from six major industries (electric, petroleum and coal products, iron and steel, chemical, cement, and paper) came to 790 million tons of CO2, or 62% of Japan’s total, which clearly highlights the areas in which reduction efforts should be focused.
Gigantic Emitters Responsible for Growing Ratio of Emissions

In FY2008, approximately 150 facilities were responsible for half of all emissions in Japan. In FY2007, half of Japan’s emissions comprised 161 facilities, while in FY2006 that figure was 200 facilities. This indicates that the trend for a small number of gigantic emitters to constitute a higher ratio of emissions is growing ever more severe.

In addition, examining direct emissions reveals that targeted facilities and transportation companies were responsible for 70% of Japan’s total emissions. Despite the decrease in production caused by the stagnation in manufacturing in the latter half of FY2008, there was no difference in the concentration of emissions on extremely large emitters between FY2007 and FY2008.

Examining targeted facilities shows that the top 20 facilities with the largest emissions (10 million tons of CO2 emissions or more per year) composed 20% of Japan’s total emissions, while the top 100 made up 45%, which illustrates how extremely concentrated on a few huge facilities that emissions are in Japan. In contrast, the emissions of those facilities that emit the least (approximately 2000 tons of CO2 emissions or more) are relatively small, such that the single facility emitting the most overall in Japan is responsible for approximately the same amount of emissions as the 10,000 facilities emitting the least, or in other words two-thirds of all total facilities. The three facilities emitting the most are equivalent to the 13,000 facilities emitting the least, or almost 90% of all facilities.

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